

# Watersheds and LAND STEWARDSHIP

## Protecting Our Water Resources: Dixie National Forest

The past, present and future of southern Utah are inextricably linked to water resources. Long before the arrival of Utah pioneers, Native Americans of southern Utah were harnessing water to irrigate their crops. Access to water—from the sky or a stream—determined the location, size and viability of any settlement.



Helicopter on Tropic Reservoir



Trail maintenance



Cutting out a trail

Today, the US Forest Service manages the largest single source of water in the nation, with about 18% originating from 193 million acres of national forest land—a priceless ecosystem service.

Periodic drought, population growth, climate change, and catastrophic fires are all threats to the quality and quantity of our water. The Dixie National Forest strives to anticipate and respond to these threats to ensure the sustained protection and provision of water.

The Dixie National Forest works with agency and community partners to protect and restore watersheds—both their resource values and the communities that depend upon them, including the Escalante Headwaters Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) and the Upper Sevier River Watershed Council.



Navajo Lake



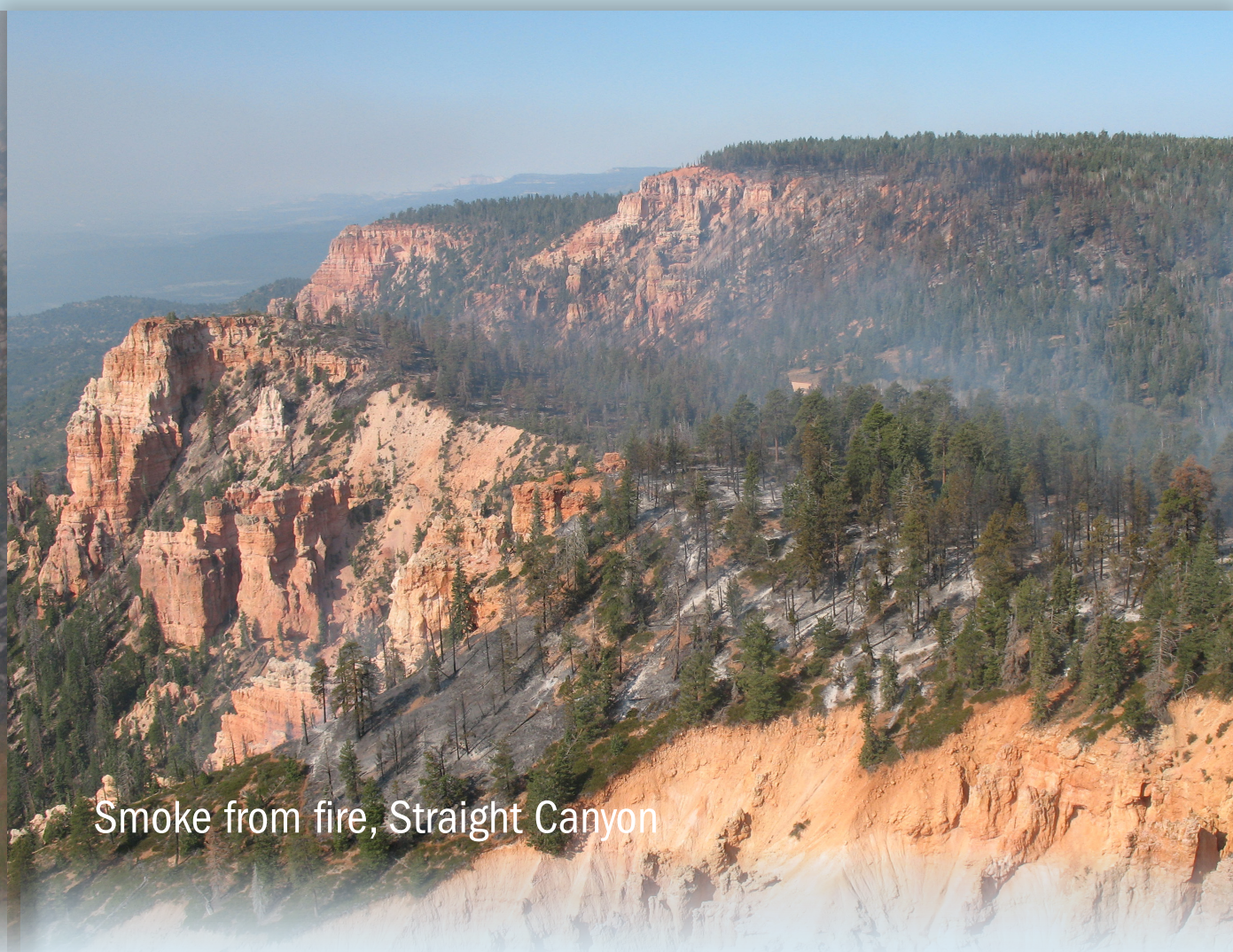
Theodore Roosevelt

### History of National Forests linked to watersheds

*In the late 1890s, Congress set aside selected forests and grasslands for the protection of watersheds for communities, so the land would be managed in perpetuity for multiple uses. In July 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt transferred the care of those forests and grasslands to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Bureau of Forestry, later renamed the Forest Service.*



US Forest Service prescribed burning



Smoke from fire, Straight Canyon



Tropic Reservoir  
All Images Courtesy of: USFS

**Dixie National Forest**  
Caring for the Land and Serving People

